



City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department volunteers provide valuable services to the community by assisting in many events and programs in a variety of ways. Volunteers can participate on a regular basis or on occasion as desired. There are many opportunities to choose from and an assortment of times and days available.

• Adult sports	• Environmental efforts	• Park projects	• Trail maintenance
• Clerical services	• Farmers' Market	• Research/surveys	• Tree planting
• Community events	• Health and Wellness	• Senior citizen programs	• Youth sports
• Cultural arts	• Inclusion programs	• Sustainability efforts	• Youth programs

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department • Volunteer Opportunities
401 N. Morton, Ste. 250 • Bloomington IN 47404

Earth Week

Learn to Ride **T-W-Th, May 3-5, 4-5:30 p.m.**
T-W-Th, May 10-12, 5-6:30 p.m.

Children will spend the entire summer cruising on their bicycles after this Bloomington Bikes Week program. Participants learn how to confidently and safely ride their bikes through individual instruction, and also learn about bike maintenance, road safety, and proper bike and helmet fittings.

Duties: Proper instruction is an important aspect of bicycle riding. Volunteers collaborate with Parks and Recreation staff to teach children riding etiquette and techniques that will keep them safe as they ride their bikes.

Program Time: 4-5:30 p.m. or 5-6:30 p.m.

Location: Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 E. Rogers Rd.—southeast corner of parking lot

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 4-6 per day

Other: Sign up for one or both sessions of Learn to Ride. Volunteers will do a lot of running. Class will be rescheduled in case of inclement weather.



The 50+ Expo: A Healthy, Active, and Creative Lifestyle Event **Tuesday, May 10/Event Setup**
Wednesday, May 11/Event

For more than 40 years, the 50+ Expo has been the community's premier showcase of businesses and organizations whose products and services are geared toward people ages 50 years and up.

Duties: Volunteers may decorate, direct exhibitors to their spaces, greet participants, distribute 50+ Expo information, collect participant feedback, and tear down the event.

Program Time: **Tuesday:** 2-5 p.m. (10 volunteers)/Event setup
Wednesday shifts: Shift #1, 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (5 volunteers)/Exhibit hall assistants
Shift #2, 2:30-4:45 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table greeters
Shift #3, 3-5 p.m. (2 volunteers)/General Expo and evaluations
Shift #4, 4:30-7 p.m. (2 volunteers)/Welcome table

Location: Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
TRAINING: Volunteers are required to attend a volunteer orientation prior to program.

Leisure Companion **January-April**

The Leisure Companion Program is a service in which participants with disabilities are partnered with a volunteer companion who provides additional support during participation in inclusive activities. The level of support will vary according to the specific needs of each individual.

Duties: As a Leisure Companion, you facilitate inclusion by advocating for the participant, providing support during activities, protecting the dignity of the participant, emphasizing similarities of participants, creating an environment for success, encouraging independent participation, and most of all, being a supportive friend!

Program Time: Dates and times will vary according to program needs.

Locations: Location of events and programs vary depending on program registration.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Banneker Afterschool Program **Twice weekly,**
January 4-May 27

Help students excel in math and reading by volunteering to read with students and review basic school-age mathematics. Additionally, facilitate activities in art and science and engage children in active games that stimulate creativity and critical thinking.

Duties: Whether you enjoy working with youth or have professional aspirations to, this service opportunity gives you hands-on experience. Tutor one-on-one or in small groups weekly.

Program Time: 3:30-5 p.m., Monday-Thursdays

Location: Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. Eighth St.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 8-10 per day

Other: We ask that you commit to two days a week for the entire semester.

Bloomington Youth Basketball—
Season III and Middle School **January 18- March 10**

This league focuses on basketball fundamentals and the application of learned skills during game participation. All leagues are coed through grade 3; girls play in a girls-only league beginning in grade 4. Middle school boys and girls also play on separate teams. Season includes weekly practices and games one night a week. The season concludes with a single-elimination tournament. Teams practice two nights a week for the first two weeks of the season (practice times are decided by the coach), then one night a week for the remainder of the season. Practices begin the week of January 18. Games begin the week of February 1. Join us for the satisfaction of playing in a fun and positive setting where everyone learns the game of basketball.

Duties: We are looking for coaches who can commit to once -or twice-weekly practices and one game per week. Volunteer coaches will enjoy making a difference in the lives of kids and can help develop our next big IU basketball star. (We suggest two coaches per team.)

Time line: *Prospective coaches must sign up by Thursday, January 7. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, January 12. Selected coaches must attend mandatory coaches meeting either Wednesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. OR Thursday, January 14, at 5:30 p.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center.*

All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA). NYSCA certification must be completed by first practice. The certification fee for each coach is \$20. The online training is available at nays.org. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov.

Program Time: Coaches plan and lead one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week.

Location: Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 50

Other: Returning coaches and parents have first priority for placement. Volunteers should commit for the entire season.

Soccer Sport Shorties **Tuesdays,**
February 2-March 8

The indoor turf field at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center is the ideal place for preschool athletes to learn the basic skills of team soccer! Athletes take part in fun, recreational drills to develop kicking, passing, and ball handling skills in this weekly program.

Duties: Are you a soccer fanatic? Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3-6 yrs.? Here is your chance to help develop the next IU soccer superstar. Work with Bloomington Parks and Recreation staff to run an introductory soccer program geared toward preschoolers.

Program Time: 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Training: Coaches' Orientation—Tuesday, February 2, 9:30 a.m. at the Twin Lakes Recreation Center (immediately prior to the first session)

Location: Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

Age of Volunteers: 16 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 2

Adopt-a-Trail **April 2016-March 2017**
Monthly inspections/
One-year commitment

More than 30 trail miles in Bloomington's city parks need periodic inspections and maintenance to remain safe and usable. Volunteers have been valuable in establishing and maintaining our trails for many years. Parks and Recreation staff provide training and equipment to volunteer groups of any size for monthly trail monitoring and annual trail maintenance.

Duties: Inspect adopted trail at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on trail status. Provide basic maintenance during each visit as needed. Do at least one work day per year. Staff works with your group or organization to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26. An orientation takes place in late March. One-year appointment starts April 1.

Time line: Trail inspections can be completed at your leisure. Schedule your trail work day with the Adopt-a-Trail coordinator.

Program Time: Various trails are available for adoption.

Locations: 12 yrs. and up

Age of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome.

Number of Volunteers: Recruitment class determined by number of trails available.



Adopt-an-Acre **April 2016-March 2017**
Monthly visits/
One-year commitment

Adopt-an-Acre is an all-volunteer program that gives the public the opportunity to actively address Monroe County's invasive plant issues. Griffy Lake Nature Preserve has thriving populations of bush honeysuckle, garlic mustard, winter creeper, privet, multiflora rose, all of which are outcompeting native plants. Parks and Recreation staff provide the necessary training in invasive plant identification and equip volunteers to proactively monitor and remove impeding plants within their adopted areas.

Duties: Inspect and make progress in removing invasive plants in adopted area of Griffy Lake Nature Preserve a minimum of once a month. Complete and submit monthly progress reports. Attend quarterly training workshops or review electronic training materials to adequately identify invasive plants and learn proper techniques for removing. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26. An orientation takes place the week of March 21. One-year appointment starts April 1.

Time line: Inspections and progress visits can be completed at your leisure. Various parcels of land are available for adoption at Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. There are plot sizes appropriate for individuals and for groups.

Program Time: 12 yrs. and up

Locations: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. We will continue the second year of the program with 5-7 volunteers or volunteer groups.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. We will continue the second year of the program with 5-7 volunteers or volunteer groups.

Bloomington Community Farmers' Market **Saturdays,**
April 2-November 26

From April through November, farmers and vendors fill Showers Common with locally grown produce, annual and perennial plants, and freshly baked bread for the Saturday morning Market. Local musicians perform while thousands of people find their way among the corn and tomatoes, local dairy products, and warm scents of fresh herbs. The Market often feels like equal parts shopping, socializing, and treasure hunt. Come early so you can amble among friends as you seek out that dried lavender or fresh basil you have been dreaming about.

Duties: If you enjoy the ambiance of the Farmers' Market, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! Work collaboratively with the Market supervisor with special events associated with Market and promote Bloomington Parks and Recreation programs by staffing the Bloomington Parks and Recreation table.

Program Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Location: Showers Common, Eighth and Morton Streets

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1-4

Other: Volunteer for one to four Saturdays a month.



Bloomington Walking Club **Thursdays,**
April 7-October 27

Join a fun and informal gathering of walkers to develop healthy physical activity habits and meet new friends. Walkers choose from a two- or four-mile route and go at their own pace. Presented by IU Health Bloomington, Southern Indiana Physicians, Purdue Extension, and Bloomington Parks and Recreation.

Duties: Embrace a healthy lifestyle and share it with others from the Bloomington community. Lead the walking group on their two- or four-mile route. Ensure safety and provide encouragement along the way.

Program Time: 5:45-7:15 p.m.

Location: Olcott Park, 2300 E. Canada Dr.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1-2



Bloomington Girls Softball **April 9-July 17**

Designed for the beginning through advanced player, this league focuses on responsible competition, including skill building and a complete understanding of the game. This league offers several levels of play ranging from tee ball to fastpitch for players ages 4-15 yrs.

Duties: Pitch, hit, field, and throw. Volunteers step up to the plate as season-long coaches and teach the fundamentals of fastpitch softball. Coaches plan practices by integrating various drills and prepare their teams for game competition. Here is your chance to put your mark on tomorrow's athlete.

Time line: *Prospective coaches must sign up by Friday, March 25. Coach selection process completed by Tuesday, March 29. Selected coaches are strongly encouraged to attend the coaches meeting immediately following player evaluations on Saturday, April 2, at 2:30 p.m. at Twin Lakes Recreation Center, 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.*



All selected coaches must complete an online coaching certification course from either the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) or the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). NYSCA certification is \$20 and ASA certification is \$25. The course must be completed prior to the first practice. Scholarships are available to offset expenses associated with the online training. For scholarship information, contact Jeigh Hockersmith at 812-349-3774 or hockersj@bloomington.in.gov. Practices begin the week of April 9.

Program Time: Coaches will be assigned one or two one-hour practices per week and one, one-hour game per week. Coaches are needed for all age groups. Must be willing to become NYSCA or ASA certified and work from a set practice schedule from April-July.

Locations: Winslow Sports Complex, 2800 S. Highland Ave. and Lower Cascades Softball fields, 2851 N. Old State Road 37.

Age of Volunteers: 18 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 30-35

Tee Ball Sport Shorties **Saturdays, April 30-June 11**

Sport Shortie participants learn the basic skills of baseball in a fun and safe atmosphere where parent participation is welcomed and encouraged.

Duties: Children experience the FUNdamentals of team sports at an early age. Do you like children at the adorable ages of 3-6 yrs.? Do you want to be a next generation IU coach? Here's your chance to help develop our next Albert Pujols, Derek Jeter, or Derrek Lee. Work with Parks and Recreation Department staff to run an introductory baseball program geared toward preschoolers. Coaches are assigned one, one-hour shift between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Coaches Orientation: Thursday, April 28, 5:30-6:15 p.m. at the Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St. Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37

Program Time: 18 yrs. and up

Training: Coaches are assigned one, one-hour shift between 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: Coaches Orientation: Thursday, April 28, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Age of Volunteers: at the Banneker Community Center, 930 W. Seventh St.

Number of Volunteers: Lower Cascades Park, 2851 N. Old State Rd. 37



Adopt-a-Stream **May 2016-April 2017**
Monthly inspections/
One-year commitment

Adopt a Stream is an all-volunteer program that gives the public an opportunity to be actively involved in conserving and maintaining the natural wealth and beauty of streams that run through public park property owned by the City of Bloomington and Monroe County. Staff provides training and equipment for monthly stream monitoring and annual stream maintenance.

Duties: Inspect adopted stream at least once a month. Complete and submit reports on stream condition. Provide general maintenance such as removing debris and litter. Attend a Hoosier Riverwatch workshop and perform water quality monitoring tests at the stream at least four times per year. Schedule a minimum of one structured work day per year. Staff works with you or your group to formulate a work plan. Volunteers must submit an online application by April 8. An orientation takes place in late April. One-year appointment starts May.

Time line: Stream inspections can be completed at your leisure. Various streams are available for adoption in Bloomington and Monroe County.

Program Time: 12 yrs. and up

Locations: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of streams available.

Age of Volunteers: 12 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: Individuals and groups of varying sizes are welcome. Recruitment class determined by number of streams available.

Park Ambassador **May 2016-April 2017**
Weekly inspections/
One-year commitment

The Park Ambassador Program promotes community stewardship and bridges the communication between the community and the Parks and Recreation Department, and sends a message that the community cares about its parks.

Duties: Park Ambassadors become public stewards of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. Through weekly visits to local parks, Ambassadors document maintenance needs, report acts of vandalism, interact with park users, promote park safety, and encourage an overall positive use of public space.

Time line: Volunteers must submit an online application by February 26; screening interviews take place in March; orientation takes place in April. One-year appointment starts May 1.

Program Time: Each visit requires approximately a one-hour assessment followed by the completion of a brief observation report.

Locations: Various parks are available.

Age of Volunteers: 21 yrs. and up

Number of Volunteers: 1 volunteer per identified park

